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For Immediate Release

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Hoosiers Have High Value for Higher Education

A recent survey conducted on behalf of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education shows that Hoosiers place a high level of importance on higher education. At a recent meeting of the Commission, staff from the Center for Evaluation and Education Policy presented their preliminary information from a public opinion survey conducted in order to find out the opinions of Hoosiers regarding higher education in Indiana.

Preliminary findings from the survey suggest that Hoosiers place significant value on higher education:

- A college education is perceived as very important or somewhat important by virtually every (98%) respondent.
- College education has grown in importance over past 20 years according to 85% of respondents.
- Most (76%) view college as a means to get a well-paying job – personal satisfaction is a distant second (34%).
- Higher education along with health care for the elderly ranked behind K-12 as a priority for state funding, but ahead of jobs/economic development, property tax relief, and courts and prisons.

“We know that higher education is a necessity for most well-paying, good jobs,” said Stan Jones, Commissioner for Higher Education. “This survey shows that Hoosiers know this to be true and are looking for colleges to provide them with what they need to get those jobs.”

The survey was conducted to inform efforts by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education to revise the existing *Framework for Policy and Planning Development* into a set of *Strategic Directions for Higher Education in Indiana*. The survey was developed with support to the Commission for Higher Education by USA Funds. For a copy of the presentation provided to the Commission, visit www.che.state.in.us.

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About the Commission for Higher Education

The Commission for Higher Education is the state's coordinating agency for higher education. For additional information go to www.che.state.in.us.

About CEEP

CEEP promotes and supports rigorous program evaluation and policy research primarily, but not exclusively, for education, human services and non-profit organizations. Its research uses both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. To learn more about CEEP, go to <http://ceep.indiana.edu>.

About USA Funds

USA Funds is an Indiana-based nonprofit corporation that works to enhance postsecondary-education preparedness, access and success by providing and supporting financial and other valued services. As the designated guarantor of federal student loans for Indiana, USA Funds last year helped 161,000 Indiana students and parents finance higher education, provided more than \$737,000 in scholarships to Indiana students and supported other initiatives to help Indiana residents prepare and pay for college. For more information about USA Funds, visit www.usafunds.org.